Inflation rate

23. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the inflation rate has crossed 4 per cent mark during the first nine months of the financial year 2007-08;

(b) if so, whether the prices of all the essential commodities have increased and the efforts taken by Government to control them have proved to be ineffective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by Government to control increase in prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for all commodities and for 30 essential commodities are indicated in Table 1. Rate of inflation has moderated and continued to decelerate in the current year.

Table 1: WPI based annual rate of inflation (%)

Month-Year	All Commodities	30 Essential Commodities
Apr-07	6.3	3.3
May-07	5.5	1.7
Jun-07	4.5	0.9
Jul-07	4.7	2.8
Aug-07	4.1	2.7
Sep-07	3.5	1.2
Oct-07	3.1	0.6
Nov-07	3.3	0.7
Dec-07(P)	3.6	1.3
Jan-08(P)	3.9	2.4

P: Provisional

(c) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system. The Monetary Policy of Reserve Bank of India, while being conducive to economic growth, has attempted to contain inflationary expectations arising out of uncertainties in domestic and international environment.

Allocation of funds/grants to Goa

24. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has sought allotment of more funds to the State, during the visit of the Planning Commission's team to Goa, recently;